

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-16 (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method of selling prescription contact lenses using a system comprising

a first group information processing apparatus and located at a facility of a contact lens seller,

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a plurality of second group information processing apparatus, each second group information processing apparatus being located at a respective facility of a contact lens prescriber, the plurality of second group information processing apparatus being connected through a communication network to the first group information processing apparatus, and portable recording media for recording data and registration numbers, so that the first group information processing apparatus can determine an exchange time for exchanging a contact lens, based on date of issuance of the contact lens and characteristics of the contact lens, whereby information notifying a contact lens customer to whom a contact lens was issued of the exchange time of the contact lens, may be given at the exchange time, both the first group information processing apparatus and the plurality of second group information processing apparatus writing data on ~~respective portable recording media and reading the data from the respective recording media,~~ each recording medium being used by only one corresponding contact lens customer, said method comprising:

transferring contact lens customer identification, address, and diagnostic data pertaining to a respective contact lens customer from said plurality of second group information processing apparatus ~~located at offices of respective optical care providers~~ to said first group information processing apparatus ~~located at a contact lens provider~~ through the communication network;

assigning a registration number to the customer and storing the registration number assigned in relationship with the customer identification and diagnostic data transferred to the ~~provider~~ contact lens seller;

providing the registration number assigned and selling agent data for a selling agent closest in geographical relation to the customer based on the contact lens customer address data, from the contact lens ~~provider~~ seller to the contact lens customer, through the communication network;

delivering a contact lens from the selling agent to the contact lens customer; and

transferring delivery data from the selling agent to the contact lens ~~provider~~ seller through the communication network.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 17, including delivering notification of an approaching deadline to replace the contact lens from the contact lens ~~provider~~ seller to the contact lens customer through the communication network.

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19. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 17, including offering new contact lenses to the contact lens customer in exchange for old contact lenses at irregular times, upon any of loss of transparency of the contact lenses, breakage of the contact lenses, and scratching or soiling of the contact lenses, and a monthly payment by the contact lens customer.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 17, including periodically offering for sale contact lens care articles by the contact lens ~~provider~~ seller to the customer through the communication network.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 19, including contracting for a one year term with the respective contact lens customer for supplying long-term-use contact lenses in exchange for the old contact lenses and the monthly payment.

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22. (New) The method of Claim 20, including periodically offering for sale the contact lens care articles based upon a consumption period of the contact lens care articles and date of most recent sale of the contact lens care articles to the respective contact lens customer transmitted from the first group information processing apparatus.

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